

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action dated August 31, 2004 regarding the above-identified application, and this Response and accompanying Disclaimer are presented in a bona fide effort to address all issues raised in that Action. For reasons discussed below, it is believed that this case is in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable reconsideration is solicited.

The cross-reference to related applications has been updated to reflect the issue dates and patent numbers of the two patents issued on the parent and grandparent applications. Grammatical corrections have been entered in claims 23 and 29, although such non-substantive changes should not effect claim scope.

Non-elected claims 31-41 have been cancelled. However, Applicants reserve the right to file a further continuing application before this case issues, to pursue those additional claims.

In the Action, all of the elected claims were rejected for obviousness type double patenting over one or the other of two commonly assigned US patents (6,680,600 and 6,747,438), which issued from a parallel continuation case or from the grandparent of this continuing application. A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith, to obviate the double patenting rejection over the two prior patents. As there was no other rejection in the latest Action, all of the claims pending in this application should be in condition for allowance.

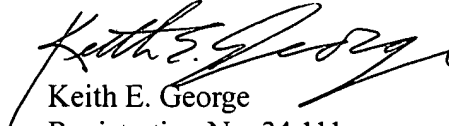
It is believed that this response addresses all issues raised in the August 31, 2004 Office Action. However, if any further issue should arise that may be addressed in an interview or an Examiner's amendment, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' representative at the number shown below.

Application No.: 10/780,685

To the extent necessary, if any, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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